

document. In addition, the names of other users are displayed on the document, typically adjacent to the sections of the document they are accessing.

[0056] At operation **604**, the user performs operations consistent with the access permissions for a section. For example, if the user has full control for a section, the user can make full edits to a section of a document, including changing formatting for the section. By contrast, if a the user has comment only access, the user can only insert comments for a section of the document but can not edit any text in the section.

[0057] When the user has completed the operation appropriate to the access permission for a section, the user may wish to share the changes made to one or more sections of the document with other users. At operation **606**, the user identifies the updates to the document that can be shared. For example, the user may highlight the sections that can be shared. In another example, the user can choose to share all updates.

[0058] At operation **608**, the user notifies the document server that the identified updates are available for sharing. This can be done, for example, by clicking a button on the user interface representing sharing. As another example, the user may click a button indicating that all changes made to the document are to be shared. Other ways to designate sections to be shared and to notify the document server are possible.

[0059] As the user is editing the document, the names of other users who are also editing the document are displayed for each section of the document. If the user wishes to view the edits from one or more other users, the user identifies the one or more other users at operation **610**. For example, the user may highlight the name of another user or double click on the name of another user. Other implementation methods are possible.

[0060] At operation **612**, the updates from the identified other users are obtained and displayed on the document. The updates are typically displayed above the section the user is editing along with the name of the other user. Other implementations are possible.

[0061] FIG. 7 shows an example flowchart for a method **700** for coordinating the coauthoring of a document at a document server. At operation **702**, the user access permissions for each section of a document that are stored in the document server. At operation **704**, the names of users currently coauthoring the document are stored at the document server.

[0062] At operation **706**, the contents of the document, the user access permissions for each section of the document and the names of users coauthoring sections of the document are used to render the document for display to a user on a client. The user access permissions and the names of users coauthoring sections of the document are typically displayed using standard user interface controls such as text boxes, list boxes or pull-down list boxes. Other implementations are possible.

[0063] As users make changes to the document, those changes are stored in the document server at operation **708**. However, the changes are not available for sharing until designated as such by a user who made the changes.

[0064] When a user determines that changes to the document are available for sharing, at operation **710** the document server receives a notification from the client that identifies the updates to be shared and to make those updates available to other users who may request them.

[0065] At operation **712**, the document server receives a request from a user for updates to the document made by one

or more other users. The document is then rendered at operation **714** to incorporate the shared changes requested.

[0066] Although the subject matter has been described in language specific to structural features and/or methodological acts, it is to be understood that the subject matter defined in the appended claims is not necessarily limited to the specific features or acts described above. Rather, the specific features and acts described above are disclosed as example forms of implementing the claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A system for coauthoring a document, the system comprising:

a server including:

one or more documents, each document being organized into sections; a document permissions module that stores user access permissions for each section of a document, the user access permissions defining an extent to which a user can modify each section of the document, the document permissions module permitting different user access permissions to be stored for the sections of the document;

a document update processing module that processes requests from a user to share document updates with other users and that processes requests from a user to receive document updates from other users; and

a document rendering module that renders a document for display on a client, the document being rendered so that sections of the document are updated with shared document updates made by users, the shared document updates being requested by the user on the client;

wherein the system permits two or more users to coauthor one or more of the sections of the document so that each user has specific access rights to one or more of the sections of the document, so that the user can specify whether updates made by the user to the one or more sections of the document can be displayed to other users, and so that the user can view the names of other users accessing the one or more sections of the document and can selectively obtain updates to the document from those users.

2. The system of claim **1**, wherein user access permissions are selected from the group consisting of full control, read/write, review only, comment only and read only.

3. The system of claim **1**, wherein the document rendering module provides user interface controls for the sections of the document.

4. The system of claim **3**, wherein the user interface controls provide indicators of users accessing the sections of the document.

5. The system of claim **3**, wherein the user interface controls provide the user access permissions for each section of the document.

6. The system of claim **3**, wherein the user interface controls permit the user to select from a group of actions, the actions including making updates to one of the sections available to other users and requesting updates to one or more of the sections from other users.

7. The system of claim **3**, wherein the user interface controls are provided adjacent to each of the sections of the document.

8. The system of claim **1**, wherein the document rendering module redacts portions of a document.